

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Mike Gowrylow
(360) 753-7624

Average Property Tax Bills Increase by 3 Percent in 2001

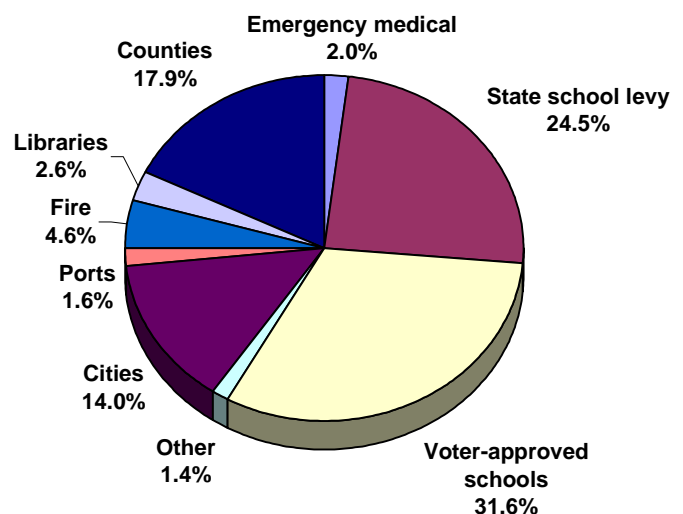
OLYMPIA, Wash., Sept. 12, 2001—The average property tax bill increased 3 percent, or about \$60 on a \$150,000 home, between 2000 and 2001, the Washington State Department of Revenue reported today.

Property Tax Statistics 2001, the agency's annual compilation of property tax data, showed that tax levies rose 5.5 percent statewide in 2001, but new construction added to the tax rolls in the past year accounted for 2.5 percent of the increase. Taxes on existing properties—those that were on the tax rolls the previous year—went up 3 percent.

Altogether, tax levies increased \$298.5 million to \$5.7 billion. Nearly \$3.2, or 56.1 percent, finances schools through voter-approved special levies and the state school levy. Counties receive \$1 billion, or 17.9 percent, and cities get \$798 million, or 14 percent. The rest is distributed to ports, fire districts, libraries, emergency medical services and other special purpose districts.

The statewide average tax bill on a home assessed at \$150,000 in 2000 rose \$60 to \$2,069 in 2001 after taking into account changes in valuation and rates.

**Property Tax Distribution
\$5.7 billion in 2001**



(more)

Some counties experienced larger or smaller changes than the statewide average. King County experienced a 4.1 percent average increase in taxes on existing properties, for example, while taxes declined 5.2 percent in Kitsap County. Among the more populous counties, Spokane was up 3.9 percent, Pierce rose 3.1 percent, Snohomish increased 3 percent, and Clark was up 3.2 percent.

The table below shows changes in average taxes on homes by county. These averages do not reflect changes in taxes on any specific property. Taxes depend on a property's location within various taxing districts such as cities and school districts, and how much the property has changed in value relative to other properties within a district.

In 1998, the most recent year for which national comparisons are available, Washington ranked 17th highest among the states in property taxes per \$1,000 personal income. Its rate of \$36.59 was \$3.37 higher than the national average of \$33.22. The national rankings count motor vehicle excise taxes as a property tax. Washington voters eliminated that tax beginning in 2000, so Washington's ranking should drop in the future.

The entire report is available on the Department of Revenue's web site, dor.wa.gov. Click on the statistical reports link to access it.

#

Tax Changes on Existing Properties by County

Based on a home assessed at \$150,000 for 2000 taxes

County	Average tax*		Tax	%	County	Average tax*		Tax	%
	2000	2001	Change	Change		2000	2001	Change	Change
Adams	\$ 2,102	\$ 2,092	\$ (9)	-0.4%	Lewis	\$ 1,851	\$ 1,872	\$ 21	1.2%
Asotin	\$ 2,221	\$ 2,190	\$ (32)	-1.4%	Lincoln	\$ 2,151	\$ 2,188	\$ 37	1.7%
Benton	\$ 2,223	\$ 2,249	\$ 26	1.2%	Mason	\$ 1,888	\$ 1,918	\$ 30	1.6%
Chelan	\$ 1,976	\$ 2,005	\$ 28	1.4%	Okanogan	\$ 1,913	\$ 1,927	\$ 14	0.7%
Clallam	\$ 1,754	\$ 1,796	\$ 42	2.4%	Pacific	\$ 1,794	\$ 1,918	\$ 125	7.0%
Clark	\$ 2,022	\$ 2,088	\$ 66	3.2%	Pend Oreille	\$ 2,061	\$ 2,067	\$ 6	0.3%
Columbia	\$ 2,143	\$ 2,105	\$ (38)	-1.8%	Pierce	\$ 2,358	\$ 2,430	\$ 73	3.1%
Cowlitz	\$ 1,818	\$ 1,826	\$ 8	0.4%	San Juan	\$ 1,243	\$ 1,338	\$ 95	7.7%
Douglas	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,152	\$ 152	7.6%	Skagit	\$ 1,922	\$ 1,947	\$ 25	1.3%
Ferry	\$ 1,715	\$ 1,690	\$ (24)	-1.4%	Skamania	\$ 1,588	\$ 1,632	\$ 44	2.8%
Franklin	\$ 2,388	\$ 2,372	\$ (16)	-0.7%	Snohomish	\$ 2,087	\$ 2,149	\$ 62	3.0%
Garfield	\$ 2,426	\$ 2,433	\$ 8	0.3%	Spokane	\$ 2,174	\$ 2,259	\$ 85	3.9%
Grant	\$ 2,212	\$ 2,208	\$ (4)	-0.2%	Stevens	\$ 1,649	\$ 1,739	\$ 91	5.5%
Grays Harbor	\$ 1,929	\$ 1,991	\$ 62	3.2%	Thurston	\$ 2,326	\$ 2,380	\$ 53	2.3%
Island	\$ 1,514	\$ 1,591	\$ 77	5.1%	Wahkiakum	\$ 1,532	\$ 1,623	\$ 91	5.9%
Jefferson	\$ 1,853	\$ 1,876	\$ 23	1.3%	Walla Walla	\$ 2,227	\$ 2,249	\$ 22	1.0%
King	\$ 1,907	\$ 1,985	\$ 78	4.1%	Whatcom	\$ 1,963	\$ 1,993	\$ 30	1.6%
Kitsap	\$ 2,205	\$ 2,091	\$ (115)	-5.2%	Whitman	\$ 2,164	\$ 2,197	\$ 32	1.5%
Kittitas	\$ 1,620	\$ 1,652	\$ 31	1.9%	Yakima	\$ 1,999	\$ 2,043	\$ 44	2.2%
Klickitat	\$ 1,691	\$ 1,797	\$ 107	6.3%	Statewide	\$ 2,009	\$ 2,069	\$ 60	3.0%

* Based on a home assessed at \$150,000 for 2000 taxes, multiplied by the average tax rate in each county. The value of the home for 2001 taxes was increased by the percentage increase for all existing properties in a county, then multiplied by the 2001 average county tax rate. The change in taxes on a specific property will depend on where in a county it is located and whether its value rose or fell at a different rate than the countywide average.